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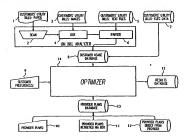
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(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD OF OPTIMIZING THE TOTAL MONTHLY AMOUNT DUE ON BILLS AND SAT-ISFYING CUSTOMER'S PREFERENCES



(57) Abstract: An apparatus and method (see Fig.) for minimizing the total customer cost for bills by gathering usage information derived from customer's bills, and receiving one or more customer preferences (9), wherein said preferences comprise one or more geographical limitations, service provider limitations, anticipated usage patters, compiling a database of one or more service plans offered by one or more providers, generating in response to said customer preferences, a list of one or more service bundles for said customer, wherein said bundle optimizes a total amount due for all bills, and communicating said list to the customer for evaluation. The invention also teaches the ability of the service providers matching or bettering the competition's plans in order to keep the customer's business.

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5 APPARATUS AND METHOD OF OPTIMIZING THE TOTAL MONTHLY AMOUNT DUE ON BILLS AND SATISFYING CUSTOMER'S PREFERENCES

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to systems and methods for bill payment.

More particularly, the present invention related to automated methods and systems for
evaluating service plans such as utility service plans and bundling service plans
together in order to optimize payment terms.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

15 Service providers of all types of services, including but not limited to heating, water, electricity, telephone, mobile phone, pagers, beepers, mortgages, loans, on-line trading, groceries, and credit cards offer one or more service plans to customers.

Customers need to evaluate the plans and often do so by guessing what their usage of the service is. For instance, the average customer merely guesses how much peak and off-peak airtime, and local versus long distance minutes he actually uses on his mobile phone, before he chooses a service plan. The present invention eliminates the guess work, and analyzes the customer's usage of these services and generates a list of the lowest cost plans and the bundles of plans with the lowest overall total cost that satisfy the customer's preferences. Further, the present invention allows for recurring analysis to occur based upon changes in the plans offered, the customer's actual service usage, and/or the customer's preferences.

Customers in today's market are subjected to numerous monthly bills for everything from utilities to mortgages to car payments, and for every bill, the customer must decide what service plan best fits his needs. The invention described herein allows a customer to evaluate the cost for each service plan which would fit his

needs, bundle service plans together in order to optimize payments which occur at regular time intervals, preferably monthly, and best match the customer's individual needs based upon the Customer's actual usage of the services. Further, it allows bundling of numerous customers' plans together in order to obtain discounts from the service provider. Additionally, the invention can analyze the Customer's usage and generate optimal plans on a recurring basis.

Currently in the industry there are service providers who gather information on their individual customer's usage from that specific service provider's bills. Some of these service providers gather this information on a recurring basis. Unlike these service providers' methods, the present invention is directed to optimization of plans for more than one service for each customer. The invention gathers information from bills from one or more providers other than the coordinator's bills; or from bills from the coordinator and one or more other providers. The coordinator may or may not be a service provider. Thus, this invention allows all of the bills from one or more service providers for a customer to be analyzed and optimized.

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Other companies have tried to minimize a customer's utility costs but require the customer to answer lengthy questions about their usage of any service (which requires either time consuming, tedious work by the customer, or more likely, guesses by the customer). The present invention does not require the customer to guess or have any information other than copies of bills, and gathers the information required from these bills, rather than by questioning the customer.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In today's market, customers, both individual and commercial,

("Customers") enter into service plans ("Plans") with service providers ("Providers")

for all types of services, including but not limited to heating, water, electricity,
telephone, mobile phone, pagers, beepers, mortgages, loans, on-line trading, groceries
and credit cards (collectively "Services"). Each Provider offers one or more Plans

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from which the Customer must choose. The invention provides for the compilation of information based upon the Customer's actual usage of the Service, and an analysis of which Plans are best for the Customer. The Plans may be ranked according to total lowest cost or in any manner desired by the Customer. The Plans and Customers can then be automatically registered for Plans with the Providers. In addition, the invention allows for a reevaluation of the Plans at Customer's request or automatically in regular intervals to find the optimal Plans for the Customer for the most current usage information. Groups of more than one Customers' Plans may be bundled together under the invention to achieve group discounts from one or more Providers.

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In the first embodiment ("First Embodiment"), the Customer desires to know his costs for any Plan that fits his needs, including usage patterns and Preferences, and/or desires that the overall total cost that he pays be optimized for all of the Services he uses each month or one or more particular bills each month. The Customer's services and costs are optimized by finding the lowest prices for the services that the Customer desires while accounting for the Customer's Preferences, if any. A coordinator ("Coordinator") gathers information from the Customer's bills, including but not limited to name, address, total costs, flat fees, usage-based fees (which are fees calculated from actual use of the Service), amount of usage for each Service, times of peak usage for each Service, and times of any usage of each Service 20 (collectively "Information"). The Coordinator may or may not be a Provider. These bills provided by the Customer, Coordinator or Provider are bills from one or more of the following: the Coordinator and/or one or more Provider who is not the Coordinator (collectively "Bills"). The Customer supplies one or more customer's preferences, including but not limited to geographical limitations, acceptable 25 Providers, unacceptable Providers, a desire to earn airline mileage rewards, a desire to give to particular charitable causes, and anticipated usage patterns (collectively "Preferences"). The Data of one or more Plans from one or more Providers, including

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but not limited to flat fees, use-based fees, free Services, time limitations and rewards, are compiled into a database, which may be a real-time or stored database ("Database"). A database may be a commercial off-the-shelf or custom database and may be a relational, object-oriented or other database. The Customer Preferences and the information from the bills are analyzed, compared with the Database and a list of one or more service bundles ("Bundles") is generated ("List"). Each Bundle consists of one or more suggested Plans for different Services, which would optimize the total cost of all the Bills, or the specific bills that Customer wanted to minimize and satisfy the Customer Preferences. The List is communicated to the Customer via internet, intranet, electronic mail, regular mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication.

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A separate preferred embodiment ("Second Embodiment") comprises the situation in which the Customer desires to optimize the overall total cost that he pays, including flat fees and use-based fees, for Services each month. A Coordinator automatically gathers Information from the Customer's Bills, including but not limited to total costs, flat fees, usage-based fees (which are fees calculated from actual use of the Service), amount of usage for each Service, times of peak usage for each Service, and times of any usage of each Service. The automatic gathering of Information may be accomplished by scanning Bills into a computer, converting the Bills into text format, preferably ASCII files, reading the text files of all the Bills, and having a computer automatically analyze the Bills for the information, or by electronically transmitting the Bills to a computer and have a computer automatically analyze the Bills for Information. The Customer supplies one or more customer's Preferences, preferably by internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication. The Customer Preferences and the Information from the Bills are automatically analyzed and compared with the Database and a List of one or more Plan or Bundle is automatically generated. The List is automatically communicated to the Customer

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via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication.

Continuing in the same embodiment, the Customer may be dissatisfied with the List or desire to be informed of more or different Bundles. The Customer may optionally enter new Preferences ("New Preferences"), and have the Information and New Preferences analyzed and a different List generated. The steps in this paragraph may occur repeatedly.

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A further embodiment ("Third Embodiment") encompasses the First or Second Embodiment with the following additions. After the completion of the First or Second Embodiment of the invention, the Coordinator automatically gathers 10 Information from the Bills upon receipt of each Bill, at set time intervals or at the request of the Customer. The Bills are automatically evaluated to reveal any, if any, permanent changes in the Customer's usage patterns. If there are any permanent changes (that is, changes that are not just one month aberrations or are statistically insignificant), the changes become part of the Information, and the Information and 15 Preferences (which may have been changed by the Customer) are compared to the Plans in the Database. The Database may or may not have had one or more new Plans added since the last evaluation for this Customer. A New List is automatically generated, and is automatically compared to the List which was generated in the last evaluation. The Bundles that are optimal due to the minimization of total costs and/or 20 the ability to satisfy the Preferences ("Optimal Bundles") are designated, preferably automatically. If one or more Optimal Bundles are not on the List, these Optimal Bundles are communicated to the Customer. Optionally, the entire New List may be communicated to the Customer.

Another embodiment ("Fourth Embodiment"), which comprises alternatively the First, Second or Third Embodiment with the following additions, is described herein. After communicating the List or the New List to the Customer, the Customer directs the Coordinator to register the Customer for one Bundle. The

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Coordinator may or may not ask the Customer for permission to contact the Providers, which the Customer currently uses ("Old Providers"). Optionally, the Coordinator contacts one or more of the Old Providers, preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication, and tells the Old Providers about the Plan or the Plans in the chosen Bundle for the Service they provide. Each of these Old Providers may or may not have the first right to retain ("Right to Retain") the Customer by matching or bettering the Plan ("Matched Plans") listed in the chosen Bundle. The Customer may or may not be able to decline the Matched Plans. Customer is eurolled, preferably automatically via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication or in one or more Plans from the chosen Bundle with one or more Providers or optionally, for one or more Matched Plans.

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The invention is encompassed in a further embodiment. After the

First, Second, Third or Fourth Embodiment, the Coordinator may coordinate payment
for the Customer to each Provider to which the Customer owes money. This
coordination may include one or more of the following: receiving the Bills,
communicating the Bills to the Customer, paying the Bills and billing the Customer
or receiving funds or access to bank accounts from the Customer to pay the Bills.

Further, the Coordinator may optionally audit the Bills upon receipt for any errors. If
there are any errors in the Bills, the Coordinator may optionally try to negotiate with
the Provider to correct the error or communicate the error to the Customer.

A further embodiment of the invention comprises receiving the Information from the Bills transmitted to the Coordinator, by either the Provider or the Customer, in an on-going basis. Coordinator gathers Customer's Preferences, preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication. The Information and the Preferences are automatically analyzed, preferably with parametric or nonparametric statistical

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estimation, and the results are stored in a database, which may be a real-time or stored database. One or more Plans may or may not be eliminated from the potential Plans which may be evaluated to determine whether they are optimal for the Customer, due to Information which will not be adequately covered by one or more particular Plans or due to the fact that in prior analyses for this Customer revealed that one or more 5 particular Plan was unacceptable due to Information or Preferences. One or more Plans may or may not be added to the Plans considered in the evaluation, depending on whether the Plans could satisfy the Preferences and cover the Services required by the Information. A List is generated from the remaining Plans which optimize the total costs and satisfy the Preferences.

Another embodiment of the invention is similar to the embodiment in the previous paragraph, with the following changes. Upon receiving the Bills, the Coordinator automatically statistically analyzes the Information and the Preferences, preferably with parametric or nonparametric estimation, and the results are stored in a database, which may be a real-time or stored database.

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An additional embodiment of the invention allows the Coordinator to satisfy the Customer's Preferences and generate the List without processing every possible Plan for every Customer. The Coordinator compiles all of the usage Information from one or more consumers, which may or may not be Customers (preferably a statistically significant number of consumers) for a particular Type of Service (this may be accomplished for each Type of Service individually) into a distribution of number of consumers that use a specific amount of the Service (for example, how many consumers use particular amounts of minutes on a cellular phone). Statistical analyses, preferably parametric or non-parametric, generate distributional models of usage Information ("Models"). This will allow the Coordinator to predict that a significant number of consumers use a specified range of cellular phone minutes ("Specified Range"), for instance 80% of consumers use between 20 and 200 minutes on a cellular phone each month. The Models are

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employed in conjunction with Plan Data and further statistical analyses, preferably parametric or non-parametric, to identify Plans that are statistically unlikely to satisfy any given Customer (e.g. Plans which do not offer Service coverage in the Specified Range). The Plans that are unlikely to satisfy may or may not be eliminated as possible solutions for each Customer. If no Plans or Lists are generated that will satisfy any given Customer, any Plans that had been eliminated from consideration may or may not be considered in another optimization step.

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In another embodiment, the optimization algorithms are linear in time with respect to the number of available Plans. In a real-time system, more than one Customer may be able to request an optimization of Plans simultaneously, requiring a unique optimization on the entire list of available plans for each requesting Customer. This real-time model scales well as a consequence of highly efficient optimizer algorithms. However, if the Coordinator received a high number of requests from Customers and/or a high number of new Plans, a real-time system may not be able to process the requests simultaneously, depending on the hardware and /or software 15 capacity. Another subsystem ("Comparer") may be used as a floodgate during the transitional phases when backend systems are inadequate for the real-time demands. The rationale behind the Comparer is that if some of the plans from the list of plans to consider could be eliminated, the optimization would take less time, preventing the 20 system from crashing until either the volumes of Customer requests and/or Plans decrease, or a long term solution can be implemented.

In this same embodiment, there are two methods by which the Comparer is able to eliminate Plans from consideration in the optimization process. First, the Comparer may eliminate all those Plans which are absolutely inferior to some other Plan. Absolute inferiority denotes a state wherein no fiscally rational person would select a particular Plan because a second particular Plan would be less expensive for any Customer. This requires the existence of two plans with exactly the same characteristics so that any Customer, whatever his Preferences, would

consider the two Plans equivalent on all bases other than price. (For instance, Company A offers 100 free cellular minutes at anytime for \$40/month and \$1/extra minute and Company A offers another Plan for 100 free cellular minutes at anytime for \$60/month and \$1/extra minute, then this analysis may eliminate the second Plan from any further analysis with regard to every Customer.) Somewhat surprisingly. this absolute inferiority of Plans occurs fairly frequently, usually when Providers are making an attempt to phase out an older Plan and introduce an identical, yet less expensive Plan.

A second way to reduce the number of Plans considered for each Customer's optimization, in the same embodiment, has also been invented. The 10 rationale behind this method stems from the following question: "If one Customer was selected at random, how likely would a given Plan be to suit this Customer's needs?" To answer this question, preference and usage profiling are employed to create statistical models of the distributions of both. Preferences and usage have both been found to have roughly normal statistical distributions, thereby forming a bell 15 curve when volume of usage or degree of preference is plotted on the horizontal axis and the number of customers with such usage or preference level is plotted vertically. If a Plan is to perform well for the average Customer it must have certain characteristics, depending on the particular distribution for a given Type of Service. For example, if the standard deviation is large for service usage (i.e. the 20 normal curve has a wide base), a Plan must be fiscally attractive for most of those usage levels to be considered desirable for any randomly selected Customer. On the other hand, if the standard deviation is low (i.e. the normal curve has a narrow base) a Plan must be fiscally attractive for those usage levels centered around the peak of the 25 curve if it is to be considered good for any randomly selected Customer. In trying to predict the usage of the next Customer, prediction intervals on the aggregate data are appropriate metrics for the uncertainty of this particular statistic. Usage, a random variable with a normal distribution, must be linearly transformed, resulting in another

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random variable with a normal distribution. The true value of the random variable is unknown, which requires the use of a point estimator for each Plan, employing data collected from the current Customers or other sources. The minimum variance unbiased estimator (MVUE) is constructed using standard methods and the prediction interval is calculated on that statistic. This point estimator gives a reasonable estimate of the true cost of a particular Plan to the next Customer, and the corresponding prediction interval captures the uncertainty of that estimate. A summary statistic that accounts for both usage breadth and total cost factors is then constructed and used as an index for sorting Plans. By considering only those plans within a particular number of places from the top of the sorted list, the Plans considered in each optimization may be arbitrarily limited ("Reduced List"). After considering all those Plans on the Reduced List, the remaining Plans may be considered, if desired.

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Calculating the potential costs incurred by a Customer is addressed in another embodiment of the invention. A Database is generated which includes one or more variables of one or more Plans offered by one or more Providers, including but not limited to peak time fees, off-peak time fees, flat fees, free usage, rewards, and geographic limitations. The Customer's Information is compiled from the Bills, while one or more Plans are designated as a potential solution set ("Solution Set") for the Customer. The estimated costs for the Customer for each Plan in the Solution Set is determined based upon the Information.

A method of ranking the Plans is embodied in a further embodiment, which comprises the following additional steps in addition to any one of the other embodiments. The Customer lists his output requirements ("Requirements"), including but not limited to lowest monthly bill, airline reward programs, best Plan for each Service, no minimum time period for the Plan, no penalties to terminate the Plan and listing all Plans. These Requirements determine how the List is generated and presented to the Customer. For example, if the Customer lists airline reward

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programs in the Requirements, then the List communicated to the Customer would list the Bundles with airline reward programs first. The Coordinator would automatically have the Bundles analyzed and ranked to display what the Customer requested in the Requirements.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

The invention will become more readily apparent from the following description of preferred embodiments thereof shown, by way of example only, in the accompanying drawings wherein:

Figure 1 is a flowchart of an embodiment of the invention, which displays the steps in the inventive process.

Figure 2 is a flowchart of another embodiment of the invention, again detailing the steps of the inventive process.

Figures 3A-3C represent a flowchart of yet another embodiment of the invention, which details the steps of the inventive process.

Figures 4a-4b display another embodiment of the invention in flowchart form.

Figure 5 is a block diagram of an apparatus embodiment of the invention.

Figures 6a-6b represent a flowchart of another embodiment of the 20 invention, again detailing the steps of the inventive process.

Figure 7 is a flowchart of another embodiment of the invention.

Figures 8a-8b depict a flowchart of another embodiment of the invention.

Figures 9a-9h display the files and fields of a database in an embodiment of the invention.

Figure 10 is a diagram of the structure of a database of an embodiment of the invention.

Figures 11a-11b depict a table of tags used in one embodiment of the

Figure 12 depicts an example of the Parser output.

Figures 13a-13b depict sample information input into and sample results generated from the invention.

Figures 14a-14h is a copy of a sample Bill.

invention

Figures 15a-15r depict a sample descriptor file in the Parser of the invention, and a sample bill for wireless phone service.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A preferred embodiment of this invention is shown in Figure 1. The
Customer, an individual or business, provides the Coordinator with copies of his bills
for any services or the Bills are obtained directly from the Provider, in paper form (1),
in image form (3), in text format (5), or electronic format (7). The paper bills (1) are
scanned into a computer in step (2), and then both the scanned bills from step (2) and
the bills in image format undergo optical character recognition processing ("OCR") in
step (4). After step (4), the OCR's results and the bills in text format are parsed in
step (6) for usage information, including but not limited to one or more of: peak time
usage, off-peak time usage, flat fees, and penalties. The results of step (6) and the
bills in electronic format are added to the Customer Usage Database, which may be
real-time or stored, in step (8).

Further, in the same embodiment, the Customer communicates his Preferences to the Coordinator. In step (9), the Preferences are input into the Customer Preferences Database, which may or may not be the Customer Usage Database. In order to complete the input of information which is required for the invention, Providers communicate the data ("Data") of the Plans, preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication. These Data may include but are not limited to one or more of: flat fees, peak times, peak time fees, off-peak time fees, rewards and penalties. Since these Data may be provided in hard copy form, via information posted on the internet or directly from the Provider electronically, in step (10) the hard copy Data are manually input, in step (11) the internet Data are retrieved via an automated program, preferably a bot (a program that performs a repetitive task on a network), and in step (12) the Providers directly provide the Data electronically to the Coordinator; and the Data are placed in the Provider Plan Database (13), which may or may not be the same as the Customer Usage Database.

The Customer Usage Database, the Customer Preferences Database, and the Provider Plan Database are all accessed for analysis in step (14). In an effort to satisfy the Preferences based upon the Data and the Information, optimal Bundles of Plans are generated and compiled in Step (15) in the Results Database, which may or may not be the same as the Customer Usage Database, the Customer Preferences Database and/or the Provider Plan Database.

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Referring now to Figure 2, a separate embodiment of the invention is demonstrated. The Preferences input into the Customer Preferences Database is used 15 to compile a rules engine ("Rules Engine" 19). Since Preferences can take a wide variety of forms and encapsulate an infinite set of gradations of intensity, a system of accounting for Preferences is necessarily complex. The most difficult task is determining how to fairly weigh competing and possibly conflicting Preferences 20 against each other. Furthermore, there is the problem of how to weigh non-financial Preferences against cost considerations. To solve these problems and minimize the possibility of strong other Preferences completely dominating cost in the ranking process (as later discussed), all Preferences are combined into a single weight factor by which the total cost of the Plan is multiplied before ranking. Applying these Preferences to the cost is not a simple matter, because storage limitations prohibit the 25 storing of separate, Preference-weighted plans for every customer. Consequently the Preferences and their weight must be applied real-time. Furthermore, Preferences are exceedingly difficult and awkward to store in a database, since multiple conditions

combined with boolean operators and the corresponding actions would require many records in several linked tables for each Preference of each Customer. Consequently, database access and data transfer times would be excessively large. After the Customer inputs the preferences, the system encodes them. Individual Preferences are represented by individual Preference language statements, and the collection of statement's for a single Customer is stored in a text file on the server. Running in parallel with the Optimizer is a real-time programming language interpreter that decodes Preferences and applies the Preferences to the data model in memory. After checking any desired Plan characteristic, the Preference statement may eliminate a Plan from the list of Plans to be considered, change its Preference weight factor (for 10 instance, if Customer prefers Company A, then Company A's Plans may be weighted heavier than the same Plan offered by Company B) or even change any Plan characteristic for the current optimizer execution (allowing the creation of hybrid or altered Plans provided the Providers can provide such Plans). Consequently, as Plans are loaded and checked for optimization, the Rules Engine applies Preferences in 15 parallel which allows the Ranker to make recommendation decisions based on the weighted Preferences. In addition to applying Customer Preferences, the Rules Engine may be used to dynamically change plan characteristics. For example, if a Provider allows rate schedules to change if a particular Plan is bundled with another. that change can be made using the Rules Engine in real-time. 20

Upon the compilation of the Rules Engine (19), the Rules Engine works in connection with a comparer ("Comparer") (21) which automatically performs non-statistical, or preferably statistical, analysis of the best Plans for the Customer's usage. Upon receipt of new Bills from the Customer or upon request by the Customer, preferably via the intermet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication, the Comparer will reanalyze the Preferences and Information. Over time, the Data regarding a particular Customer and his analyses accumulates, allowing the Comparer to eliminate certain

Plans from the analysis due to their inability to satisfy the Preferences or the Customer's usage. Further, in this same embodiment, the Information in the Customer Usage Database (18) is aggregated and processed into a set of fields, which are comparable for all Plans from any Provider, by a processor ("Processor") (22), which is preferably a computer-based analysis.

Continuing with the same embodiment, the Rules Engine (19), the Comparer (21) and the Processor (22), all provide information for a cost calculating analysis ("Cost Calculator") (23). After the Rules Engine (19) and the Comparer (21) have narrowed the set of possible Plans, the Cost Calculator determines the total cost that the Customer would have incurred for his current usage patterns for every Plan in the set. Hundreds of variables (for example those listed in Figures 9a-9h and described below) in the Processor are matched with the Data of each Plan. For example, the Cost Calculator will determine costs for long distance telephone service by considering one or more of the following factors, including but not limited to intra-state, inter-state, peak, off-peak, and weekend costs, taxes, monthly fees, surcharges, and free minutes.

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After the Cost Calculator is finished processing, in the same embodiment, the Bundles of Plans are ranked according to the Customer's Requirements, or total monthly cost by the process called the Ranker (24). In the next step, the results from the Ranker are input into the Results Database (25), which may or may not be different from the Customer Usage Database, the Customer Preferences Database, or Provider Plans Database. Once the Customer receives the Ranker's results, the Customer selects its Bundle. Information about the Customer is given to the Provider, preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication, so that the Customer can be enrolled for the Plan with the Provider. This whole process is noted as the Coordinator Process (26). Data about the Plan are stored in the Customer Usage Database (18) for future comparisons.

Figures 3A-3C depict another embodiment of the present invention.

Customer Bills are provided to the Coordinator (27). Any Bills that are in paper form

(28) are scanned into a computer (29) and converted to image files (30), which are
then converted to text files by OCR (31). Other Bills may or may not be provided as
image or text files. The text files (32) are processed by a parser ("Parser") (33) to
aggregate and process the information into a set of fields of electronic data (34) that
are comparable across all provider plans (some of these fields are further described in
the description of Figures 9a-9h below).

Usage information of Customers may come from a variety of sources. both digital and hardcopy. The digital information may be processed in the Parser 10 (33). The Parser is capable of extracting all useful usage information from a standard electronic bill whether it is in ASCII plain text, HTML, XML or some other representation. The general problem, which is solved by the Parser, results from the fact that within a standard bill, there exists much useful information dispersed among 15 relatively worthless garbage text, primarily used for advertisements, service notices, formatting and aesthetics. The task of the Parser is to sort the useful from the useless information and organize the useful information into a usable form. Parsing the entire bill, including large unnecessary text blocks would require natural language processing algorithms which are incredibly complex and notably slow. The Parser in the invention however, recognizes the Bills as nothing more complex than a context 20 free grammar.

A Context Free Grammar is a linguistic construct that describes a language wherein every symbol in that grammar has the same meaning, regardless of its position in any given document. While this restriction may seem crippling, this construct may be used so that context dependent symbols may be disregarded in Bills. Formally defined, context free grammars are 4-tuples:

(8. V. S. R) wherein

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- § is the alphabet, in this case the English alphabet including the arabic number set and standard punctuation.
- V is the set of all nonterminals. These non-terminals or variables describe grammatical structures that store information and encode context. They consist of symbols from the alphabet in possible combination with other nonterminals.

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- S is the start variable or the first non-terminal that the Parser attempts to recognize.
- R is the set of rules that define the composition of each nonterminal. Each nonterminal may have multiple rules defined in R.

By flagging certain symbols as having possible contextual ambiguity, the problem of context dependency can be avoided. A special non-terminal ("Garbage Text") may be defined to handle miscellaneous data having little or no importance to the invention, for example, advertisements or notices of service modifications have no meaning to optimization, yet may complicate the process of the Parser significantly since Parsers may be written in natural language. Paragraphs of Garbage Text are the only sections of a Bill that might call into question the assumption of context independence. Fortunately, this Garbage Text may be ignored. If any flagged symbol appears in a position that makes its meaning uncertain and the Parser does make a mistake in designating or not designating Garbage Text, the worst case scenario is a Parser error, rather than lost or corrupted data. In this way, Bills may be treated as context free grammars and processed by the Parser accordingly.

All important keywords will only appear where they should. In any cases where keywords have multiple meanings depending on position, the situation can be resolved through brute force methods. Since bills are context free grammars, it is possible to parse them using standard programming language compiler techniques. Due to its speed and error robustness, an LALR (look ahead left

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recursive) algorithm may be used for the Parser. To implement this part of the invention, a parser generator developed by the Free Software Foundation (FSF) known as Bison and a lexical analyzer generator developed also by the FSF known as Flex may be used. One problem to be solved in the Parser is the entry of new Bill types. Entering grammar descriptions directly using the Bison grammar descriptor format would require significant technical knowledge and professional level expertise with the C programming language. In order to make Bill entry as easy as possible, an XML language may be defined that has several predefined tags (see Figures 11a-11b) for denoting specific predefined grammatical constructs and a considerable amount of flexibility in defining new structures. This language is based around Bill structures, not data structures. Consequently, it is simple for the person who is administering the entry of new Bill types to understand and to use. The XML document (seen in Figures 15a-15c) may be processed and used to generate the input files for Bison and Flex which then generate code for the Parser.

Continuing in the description of the same embodiment of the Parser, after creating a Parser, which may or may not be the same as another Parser, for each bill type (e.g. a Bill for a Particular Plan or Provider), upon receipt of a Bill, each of the Parsers could simply be tried successively until one of the Parsers returned an output without an error. Since the LALR algorithm is able to exit at the soonest possible time after an error is found, this solution becomes extremely efficient since most incorrect Parsers will fail before the first 10 to 20 tokens have been parsed. In addition, using information passed along with the bill by partners, such as provider name and customer account number, the list of possible bill types to consider can be greatly reduced.

A sample long distance phone Bill is depicted in Figures 14a-14h. An example of the Parser's output (from the Bill in Figures 14a-14h) is displayed in Figure 12. As in the previous embodiment, the electronic data is then compiled into the Customer Usage Database (35).

In the Customer Usage Database (35) step, the output of the Parser may be processed to verify whether Customer is a new or existing customer of the Coordinator. Each new Customer may have a new subscription record created. Then the output of the Parser is identified by Type of Service and grouped into subsets of information (e.g. for a long distance phone Bill, in-state calls may be grouped separately from state-to-state calls). This information may be aggregated to record certain enumerated information in the Database (e.g. the top 20 phone numbers called, the tope 10 states called).

Continuing in Figure 3B of the same embodiment, the Data about the
Provider Service Plans (36) are gathered from paper descriptions (37) or telephone
discussions (38), which are both manually input (41) into the Provider Plan Database
(44), or from Internet websites (39) owned by the Provider, which may be manually
input (41) or retrieved via Bot (42) for the Provider Plan Database (44). Additionally,
the Data may optionally be provided through electronic data (40), which may be
automatically downloaded (43) to the Provider Plans Database (44).

As seen in Figure 3C of the same embodiment, the Customer inputs his Preferences preferably by the Internet. The Rules Engine (48) processes the Preferences and defines parameters which are required for any Plan to be considered. The Rules Engine processes the Plans in the Provider Plans Database (49), and eliminates any Plans which will not satisfy the Preferences. The Customer Information is also processed by a processor ("Processor") which compiles the Information into fields which are common among the Plans for each Service (45). For example, long distance telephone service usage may be distributed into 15-minute groups or buckets over a month. Figure 13a depicts a snapshot of the sample Bill's information input into the Processor and the details captured in 672 15-minute buckets over one month. This Information is further processed by analysis, preferably statistical or non-statistical, either parametric or nonparametric, in order to determine what types of Plans would satisfy this Customer's usage (46). Both results

from step (46) and step (49) are processed, preferably automatically in order to calculate the cost for the Customer's usage under each Plan which would satisfy the Preferences and Information (50). Figures 13a-13b detail a sample output from the cost calculator step (50). The output of step (50) may be further processed so that the Bundles will be ranked according to lowest total cost, preferably monthly cost (a sample of which is depicted as output of the Ranker in Figure 13b). The results of this ranking are stored in the Results Database, which may be real-time or stored (52). A sample of the overall output is depicted in Figure 13b. In this embodiment, the Coordinator optionally facilitates the Customer enrollment in the new Plans with one or more Provider (53), this facilitation may include one or more of: contacting the Provider, gathering data about the Customer for the Provider and agreeing to have the Provider change the Service to the new Plan, on the Customer's behalf. Preferably, this facilitation may be accomplished via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication with the Provider

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Figures 4a-4b display another embodiment of the invention. In step 54, the Customer's Bills are gathered from the Customer or the Provider and the Information is culled from these Bills, as set forth in the other embodiments. The Customer gives his Preferences to the Coordinator preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication in step (55). The Provider's Plans and the associated Data are compiled into a Database in step (56). Using the Information, Data and Database, a List of Optimal Bundles is generated (step 57), and in step (58) is communicated to the Customer preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication. The Customer reviews the List and chooses a Bundle in step (59). Then the Coordinator contacts each Old Provider for each Plan on which Customer is currently enrolled, to inform the Old Provider about the new Plan that Customer desires in step (60) ("New Plan"). The

Old Provider may have the right of first retention, and will keep the Customer if the Old Provider matches or betters the New Plan (in step (61)). Optionally, the Customer may change Providers even if the Old Provider matches or betters the New Plan.

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Another, separate embodiment is represented in Figures 6a-6b. In step. 74, the Customer's Bills are gathered from the Customer or the Provider and the Information is culled from these Bills, as set forth in the other embodiments. The Customer gives his Preferences preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication in step (75). The Provider's Plans and the associated Data are compiled into a Database in step (76). Using the Information, Data and Database, a List of Optimal Bundles is generated (step 77), and in step (78) is communicated to the Customer preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication. The Customer or Provider provides new Bills to the Coordinator, and the Coordinator gathers Information from the New Bills in step (79) (as in step (74)). The New Information, new Plans and new Preferences, if any were provided by the Customer, are evaluated in step (80), and a new List of Bundles which satisfy the new Preferences and New Information is generated in step (81). The New List and the List are compared (82) so that one or more Optimal Bundles may be designated (83). If any of the Optimal Bundles are not on the List, those Optimal Bundles (optionally, along with all the Optimal Bundles) are communicated to the Customer in step (84).

The invention is manifested in another embodiment represented in Figure 7. The Bills are received and the Information is gathered from the Bills (85) as described in other embodiments. Similarly, the Preferences are received (86) as described in other embodiments. The Information and Preferences are statistically analyzed (87), as also described in previous embodiments, and one or more databases, which may or may not be the same as other databases used in this embodiment, of the

results are generated (88). One or more Plans may be eliminated as a possible solution for the List if the Plan(s) do not satisfy the statistical or other requirements (89). From the Plans not eliminated, a List of Optimal Bundles is generated in step (90).

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Continuing in the description of the invention with another embodiment, Figures 8a-8b represent yet another embodiment. In step 91, the Customer's Bills are gathered from the Customer or the Provider and the Information is culled from these Bills, as set forth in the other embodiments. The Customer gives his Preferences preferably via internet, intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless 10 devices, cellular technology and/or personal communication in step (92). The Provider's Plans and the associated Data are compiled into a Database in step (93). Using the Information, Data and Database, a List of Optimal Bundles is generated (step 94), and in step (95) is communicated to the Customer preferably via internet. intranet, electronic mail, telephone, wireless devices, cellular technology and/or 15 personal communication. The payments for the Plans are coordinated for the Customer in step (96), so that Customer may receive one or more bills from the Coordinator for one or more Plans, and the Customer may direct the Coordinator to pay the Provider Bills, while the Customer pays the Coordinator. The Bills may be audited for errors in step (97), and if one or more error is found, the Coordinator may contact the Provider about the error (98). The Coordinator may or may not obtain 20 permission from the Customer to negotiate and then attempt to negotiate with the Provider on the Customer's behalf regarding the error in step (99).

Figure 5 represents another embodiment of the invention. The other embodiments of the invention are preferably computer software which is implemented on the apparatus represented in Figure 5. The Customer's Communication Device (62) is preferably a computer, telephone, wireless device, cellular phone or other media employed to communicate Information, Preferences and any Customer input to (67) or receive Lists or inquiries from (68) a Network (63). The Network is a group of computers and associated devices that are connected together by permanent connections, such as cables, or temporary connections, such as telephone links. The Network is preferably internet including the Web, on-line services, such as America-On-Line, intranet, local area networks, wide area networks, telephone system, wireless or cellular network or any media network.

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Further in this embodiment, the Provider's Communication Device (65) is preferably a computer, telephone, wireless device, cellular phone or other media employed to communicate the Plans to (74) or receive enrollment information or right of first retention information (73) from the Network. The Information, Preferences, Plans, Lists and other communications from the Customer or Provider 10 are sent (70) to one or more Servers (64). The Servers are mainframe computers, minicomputers, microcomputers (including personal computers or workstations) or other computers serving as a repository for data gathered and are preferably owned and/or operated by or on behalf of the Coordinator. The Server then sends the Information, Preferences and Plans (71) to one or more Databases (66), and the 15 Databases supply the same to the Servers when needed (72). Finally, the Servers communicate Bundles and Lists to the Network (69) for transmission to the Customer's Communication Devices (67); and Bundles, Lists, enrollment information, and first retention information to the Provider's Communication Device 20 (73).

Figure 10 depicts the structure of the Database described in Figures 9a-9h. Figures 9a-9h depict the data which may be contained in the Customer Usage Database (8), the Customer Preferences Database (9), the Provider Plans Database (13) and the Results Database (15). One or more of the following files and one or more of the fields may be included in one or more databases in this invention. The file Address (100) may contain one or more of the fields (100a-100h) which comprise a Customer identification number, address type or format of the address, a designation of the Customer's state, and Customer address information. Further, the

Customer file (105) and Customer Phones (106) for each Customer includes the

fields (105a-105n) for the Customer's identification number, name, social security number, email address(es), title, suffix, date of first using the Coordinator, driver's license number, state, birthdate, and password, and the fields (106a-106f) with type of phone (for example landline, cellular, wireless), area code, hours of availability, phone number and extension. Any preferences entered by the Customer may be stored in the Preferences file (120) with fields (120a-120e) of the Customer's identification number, Provider identification number, type of Service, whether the Customer prefers to save on a particular Service or on the overall package of Services. Agg Usage (101) is a file that contains one or more of the fields (101a-101h) which includes the identification assigned each of the particular Service Plans in which the Customer is currently enrolled, the type of Service (for example electricity, gas, water, telephone), the date of the Bill provided, the country in which the Service is rendered, the amount of the Bill, the number of minutes a Service is used by Customer, the dollars billed to the Customer, the account number or phone number in the value field, the number of calls. The fields (102a-102b) in the Area Codes file (102) store data of the area code of the Customer and links to the jurisdiction identification file, which limits the location of the Customer to help eliminate any inappropriate plans and calculate the relevant costs of Plans. Each state is assigned a code and that is stored in the State file (128, fields 128a-128b). The zip codes are stored in the Zip Codes file (140), and each zone's information is stored by type of record (for instance state), value of record (for instance Pennsylvania) and jurisdiction identification in the fields (141a-141c) of the Zones file (141). Data regarding Bundles are stored in the Bundles file (103), and include (in fields 103a-103f) an identification number assigned to a particular Bundle, the date on which the

Bundle can first be offered to Customers, the name of the Bundle, the last date on which the Bundle can be offered, the flat fee if any associated with the Bundle, and a

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designation of commitment (e.g. what penalties are incurred if a Customer changes a Plan before a specified time).

Each Provider's information will be stored in the Provider file (122) with one or more of the fields (122a-122I) including an identification number assigned to the particular Provider, a code of the state in which the Provider offers 5 Plans, the Provider's name, address, the Parent Provider identification (this tracks the parent company, which offers each particular Plan), the website, phone number and a code to be used with any Plan from the Provider which is coordinated by Coordinator (so the Coordinator may be credited with bringing the Provider business). For each type of Service, there is a Types of Service file (134) which includes the type of 10 Service and a description of that Service in fields (134a-134b). The Provider is linked to its Type of Service in the fields (135a-135b) of the Types Of Service Provider file (135). Each type of rate scheme (for example, by the minute, flat fee, including certain peak and off-peak minutes) is stored in a Rates 15 file (125) with the fields (125a-125e) with an identification number assigned to this rate scheme, with start and end dates of the scheme, the type of Service, and any fixed fee. The Rates Schedules file (124) stores the variable rate information for a narticular Plan, while the Rates Repeating file (126) stores the constant rate information (126a-126c) for a particular plan. The Sequence_gen file (127) generates sequences used to assign unique identifications for each identification field (127a-20 127b). The Rates Schedule Aggregate file (123) stores the aggregate rate information of a particular Plan (e.g. number of free minutes) (123a-123c). When the Data of the Provider's Plans is provided, it is stored in the Plans file (118) with one or more of the fields (118a-118i, 118l-118q) including an identification number assigned to the Plan, an identification number assigned to the provider, the type of Plan, a 25 description, whether the Plan must be offered with other Plans, the start and end date when the Plan is offered. Rate identification (which relates the file to other files with rate information for the Plan), timeschedule identification, the name of the Plan, type

of Service, and whether the Customer has been enrolled. If a Plan has more than one sub-Plans offered, this information may be included in the Plans file. Each Plan may be limited in geographic scope, which would be stored in the Plans Coverage File (119) which includes the fields (119a-119e) of an identification of the jurisdiction (or geographic scope), the start and end dates of the Plan, the identification of the Provider, and the Plan identification number. On occasion, a Provider may offer a promotion associated with a Service, and that Data may be stored in the Promotion file (121) with the fields (121a-121g) including an identification number assigned to that particular Promotion, an identification number for the Bundle in which the Promotion is included, the Promotion name, the monetary amount of the Promotions, the start and end date of the Promotion, and a description of the Promotion. Some of the Provider's Data is stored in the Feature Master (108) file with the fields (108a-108c) for the identification of the feature file, the type of Service and the name of the feature offered in the Plan by the Provider. The Features Plan (110) file stores the date for each Plan, including the fields (110a-110g) of the start date for each feature (for example amount of peak minutes included in the flat rate for a particular telephone service Plan), the type of Service, the feature value, which is the dollar value of the particular feature in that Plan, the end date for each feature, the identification number, the Provider identification and the Plan identification number. The Jurisdiction File (111) also stores data in the fields (111a-111b), as does the Levels File (112) with fields (112a-112e), which addresses any variations in rates above or below a specified level of usage. Any taxes associated with each particular jurisdiction is stored in the Taxes Tariffs file (130) with the jurisdiction identification

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Once a Customer has made a choice of Plans, the Choice file (104) has a list of all the Plans and Bundles of Plans which can be offered to the Customer. The Orders file (115) may store the fields (115a-115k) including the identification number assigned to this particular Customer's order, the Customer's and Provider's

and identification assigned to the tax in the fields (130a-130b).

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identification numbers, the date on which the Order was placed with the Provider, Customer's credit card type, number, and authorization, amount of the order, expiration date for the credit cards, status of the order and a reference number assigned to this Order. If the Customer has selected on or more features, the data is stored in the Features_Customer_Bundle file (109) with the fields (109a-109f) for the Provider's identification number, the type of Service, the end date on which the Customer will cease receiving the Feature, the identification for the Customer's enrollment in the Plan, the identification number of the Plan, and the identification number associated with the Feature_Master file. Once the Customer is enrolled in a Plan, the Subscriptions file (129) stores fields (129a-129i) which may include the start date, Plan identification number, end date, term of the enrollment, account number, an identification assigned to the Subscription, the Provider identification,

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As the Coordinator receives the Bills of the Customer, the information
regarding the Customer's usage will be stored in Usage_Detail (136) in fields (136b136g), the year, number of week, number of units used, an identification number
assigned to this Bill's usage, the identification of the Detail file, and the associated
Subscription identification. The Usage_Master (137) captures a Customer's usage for
a Type of Service. The Usage_Running_Avg (138) comprises the master table of 672
(15 minute groupings) identifications for the detail records of usage over an entire
month, while User_Running_Avg_Detail (139) comprises the 672 detail records of
usage.

Order and Customer identification.

The present invention may be embodied in other specific forms
without departing from the spirit or essential attributes of the invention. Accordingly,
reference should be made to the appended claims, rather than the foregoing
specification, as indicating the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

- A method for minimizing total customer cost for bills, comprising:
 gathering usage information derived from a customer's bills;
 receiving one or more customer preferences, wherein said preferences
 comprise one or more of the group consisting of geographical limitations, utility
- 5 comprise one or more of the group consisting of geographical limitations, utility provider limitations, and anticipated usage patterns;
 - compiling a database of one or more service plans offered by one or more providers;
- generating, in response to said customer preferences, a list of one or

 more service bundles for said customer, wherein said bundle optimizes a total amount
 due for all said bills; and
 - communicating said list to said customer for evaluation.
 - The method of claim 1 further comprising: automatically gathering said usage information upon receipt of each
- 15 bill:

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- automatically evaluating said usage information with new preferences resulting from one or more permanent changes in a usage pattern;
- automatically generating a new list of one or more service bundles, said bundles optimize a total amount due for all said bills and satisfy customer preferences:
- automatically comparing the list and the new list;

 designating one or more optimal service bundles; and

 communicating the optimal service bundles to customer, in the event
 one or more optimal service bundles are not in the list.
- The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 - receiving a direction from said customer to register said customer for one service bundle; and

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enrolling said customer with said providers for one or more plans in said service bundle.

- The method of claim 1 further comprising: receiving a direction from said customer to register said customer for one service bundle:
- automatically contacting a old provider which the customer already uses with the information of a cost of the relevant plan in the bundle; and allowing the old provider to retain the customer by offering the identical relevant plan or a better relevant plan.
- 10 5. The method of claim 1 further comprising: coordinating payments for said customer to all said providers; and
- auditing said bills for one or more errors.

 6. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- 15 information for one or more types of service; and identifying one or more plans which are statistically unlikely to satisfy any customer.

generating distributional models of one or more customer's usage

- The method of claim 6 further comprising:

 eliminating said unlikely plans from consideration for the list.

 The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- eliminating from possible inclusion on a list one or more plans which have the same characteristics as another plan and is more expensive.
 - The method of claim 1 further comprising:
 assigning in real time a weight to each plan based upon said preferences.
 - 10. A method of comparing customer usages to service bundles comprising: receiving a customer's usage information from one or more bills transmitted to the coordinator on an on-going basis upon receipt of said bills;

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gathering one or more customer's preferences;

automatically statistically analyzing said usage information and said customer preferences for a list of one or more optimal service bundles, said statistical analyzing comprises one or more of the group consisting of parametric and nonparametric estimation;

generating a database, said database comprising said usage information from said bills:

eliminating one or more provider plans from a possible solution set based upon said usage information;

eliminating one or more provider plans from a possible solution set base upon prior iterations of said analysis; and

generating a list of one or more service bundles, said bundles optimize a total amount due for all said bills and satisfy customer preferences.

- 11. A method of calculating the potential costs incurred by a customer with a specified provider plan comprising:
- generating a database, said database comprising one or more variables for one or more service plans offered by one or more providers;
- compiling a customer's usage information from one or more bills transmitted to a coordinator;
- 20 designating a set of said plans as a potential solution set for said customer; and

determining a cost for each said plan in said set.

- A method of ranking service plans comprising:
- ranking service plans for said customer according to said customer's

 output requirements comprising one or more of the group consisting of lowest bill,
 best plan for each service, and listing all service plans.
 - An apparatus for minimizing total customer cost for bills, comprising:

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a means for gathering usage information derived from a customer's hills:

a means for receiving one or more customer preferences, wherein said preferences comprise one or more of the group consisting of geographical limitations, utility provider limitations, and anticipated usage patterns;

a means for compiling a database of one or more service plans offered by one or more providers;

a means for generating, in response to said customer preferences, a list of one or more service bundles for said customer, wherein said bundle optimizes a total amount due for all said bills: and

a means for communicating said list to said customer for evaluation.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a means for automatically gathering said usage information upon receipt of each bill;

a means for automatically evaluating said usage information with new preferences resulting from one or more permanent changes in a usage pattern;

a means for automatically generating a new list of one or more service bundles, said bundles optimize a total amount due for all said bills and satisfy customer preferences;

20 a means for automatically comparing the list and the new list;

a means for designating one or more optimal service bundles; and

a means for communicating the optimal service bundles to customer, in the event one or more optimal service bundles are not in the list.

The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:

a means for receiving a direction from said customer to register said customer for one service bundle: and

a means for enrolling said customer with said providers for one or more plans in said service bundle. $\dot{}$

- The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:
- a means for receiving a direction from said customer to register said customer for one service bundle;
- a means for automatically contacting a old provider which the

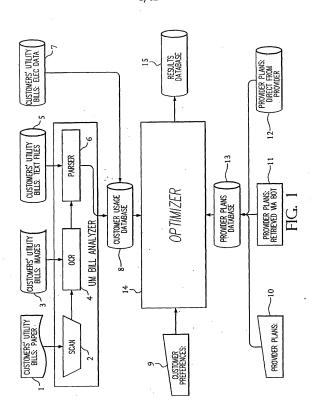
 customer already uses with the information of a cost of the relevant plan in the

 bundle; and
 - a means for allowing the old provider to retain the customer by offering one of the group consisting of an identical relevant plan and a better relevant plan.
- 10 17. The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:
 - a means for coordinating payments for said customer to all said providers; and
 - a means for auditing said bills for one or more errors.
- An apparatus of comparing customer usages to service bundles
 comprising:
 - a means for receiving a customer's usage information from one or more bills transmitted to the coordinator on an on-going basis upon receipt of said bills:
 - a means for gathering one or more customer's preferences;
 - a means for automatically statistically analyzing said usage information and said customer preferences for a list of one or more optimal service bundles, said statistical analyzing comprises one or more of the group consisting of parametric and nonparametric estimation;
- a means for generating a database, said database comprising said usage 25 information from said bills;
 - a means for eliminating one or more provider plans from a possible solution set based upon said usage information;

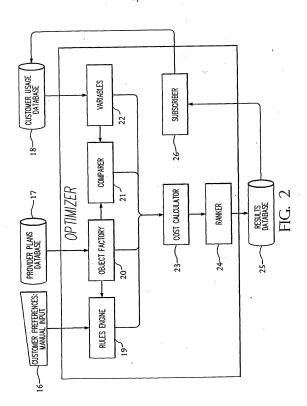
- a means for eliminating one or more provider plans from a possible solution set base upon prior iterations of said analysis; and
- a means for generating a list of one or more service bundles, said bundles optimize a total amount due for all said bills and satisfy customer

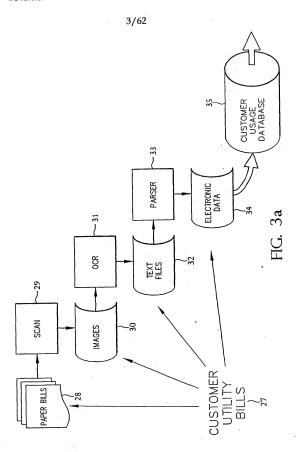
 5 preferences.
 - 19. An apparatus of calculating the potential costs incurred by a customer with a specified provider plan comprising:
 - a means for generating a database, said database comprising one or more variables for one or more service plans offered by one or more providers;
- 10 a means for compiling a customer's usage information from one or more bills transmitted to a coordinator:
 - a means for designating a set of said plans as a potential solution set for said customer; and
 - a means for determining a cost for each said plan in said set.
- 15 20. An apparatus of ranking service plans comprising:
 - a means for ranking service plans for said customer according to said customer's output requirements comprising one or more of the group consisting of lowest bill, best plan for each service, and listing all service plans.
 - 21. A method of parsing information from one or more bills from one or more providers for one or more plans comprising:
 - describing a bill's format with a graphical user interface, said description noting one or more of characteristics consisting of important information, position of the particular information, data types, and table details;
 - transferring the description to one of the formats consisting of XML, HTML and self-defined tagged languages;
 - automatically generating one or more functions in programming language from the modified description;

using the function to process one or more bills from one or more providers as context free grammar, and extracting the information from said bills.

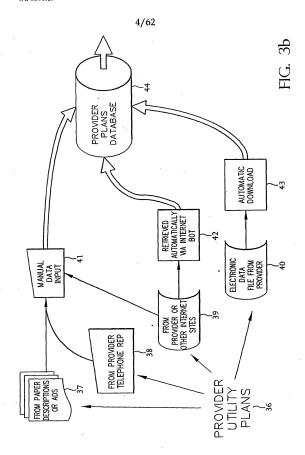


SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)





SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)



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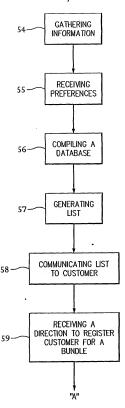


FIG. 4a

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

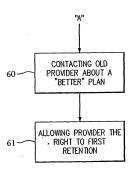


FIG. 4b

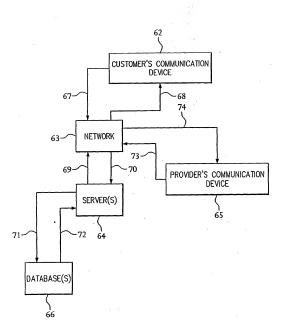


FIG. 5

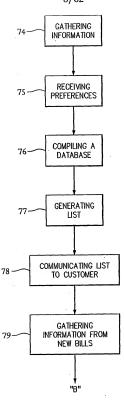


FIG. 6a SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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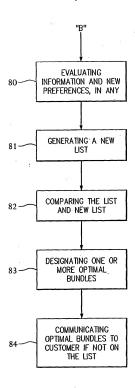


FIG. 6b

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

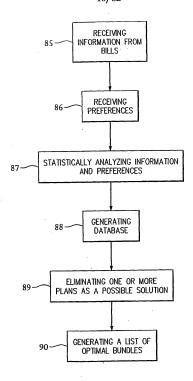


FIG. 7

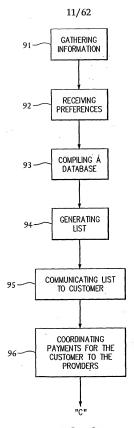


FIG. 8a
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

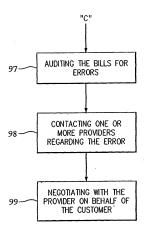


FIG. 8b

Table		Name Table Column Name	
Address	100	Customer Id	100a
		Address Type	100b
		state code	100c
		Address Line 1	100d
		Address Line 2	100e
		Address Line 3	100f
		City	100g
		Zip Code	100h
Agg Usage	101	Subscription Id	101a
		agg type	101b
		Bill Date	101c
		Country Code	101d
		Value	101e
		Usage Minutes	101f
		Usage Dollars	101g
		no of calls	101h
Area Codes	102	Area Code	102a
		Jurisdiction_Id	102b
Bundles	103	Bundle_ID	103a
		Bundle Effective Start Date	103b
		Bundle Name	103c
		Bundle Effective End_date	103d
		Bundle Flat Fee	103e
		commit_flag	103f
Choice	104	Plan Id	
		Provider_Id	
		Choice Start Date	
		Choice End Date	

FIG. 9a SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

	Bundle ID	
	Type Of Service	
	choice id	
Customer 105	Customer ID	105a
	Middle Name	105b
	Last Name	105c
	SSN 105d	
	First Name	105e
	email address	105f
	alt email address	105g
	Title	105h
	Suffix	105i
	Customer Since	105j
	Driv License Number	105k
	Driv License State	1051
	Date Of Birth	105m
	Acct Password	105n
Customer Phones 106	Customer Id	106a
	Phone Type	106b
	Area Code	106c
	Contact Hours	106d
	Phone Number	106e
	Extension	106f
Feature Master 108		108a
	Type Of Service	108b
	Feature Name	108c
Features Customer	Provider ID	109a
Bundle 109		
	Type Of Service	109b
	Feature End Date	109c

FIG. 9b SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

	Subscription Id	1090
	Plan Id	109€
	Feature_ID	1091
Features-Plan 110	Feature Start Date	110a
	Type of Service	1101
	Feature Value	1100
	Feature End Date	1100
	Feature ID	1106
	Provider Id	1101
	Plan Id	1100
Jurisdiction 111		111a
	Coverage_Name	1111
Levels 112		112
	Period Id	112
	Level Id	112
	Level Value	1120
	Level Rate	1126
Order Response	Order ID	
	Provider Id	
	Order_Response_Id	
	Order Reference No	
	Start_Date	
	Provider_Timestamp	
	Response_Status_Code	
	email_sent	
	Order_Updated	
Order_Response_	Order ID	
Detail		
	Provider Id .	
	Order Response Id	
	Error Type	•

FIG. 9c SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

		Error_Code	GT, 907 1916.	
Orders	115	Order_ID	7 100 14	115a
		Customer_Id	7 4 7 4 7 5	115b
		Provider Id	**	115c
		Order Date		115d
		Credit card Type		115e
		Credit Card Number		115f
		Credit Card Authoriz	ation	115g
		Order Amount	,	115h
		Credit Card Expirati	.on	115i
		Order Status		115j
		Order Reference No		115k
Periods		Period ID		
		Name		
Periods Cycles		Period_Id		
		Cycle_Id		
Plans	118	Plan_Id		118a
		Provider Id		118b
		Plan Type		118c
		Description		118d
		Bundled_Only		118e
		Plan Start Date		118f
		Plan End Date		118g
		Plan Flat fee		118h
		Plan Logic		, 118i
		Rate_Id		118m
		Time Schedule Id		118n
		Name		118o
		Type Of Service		118p
		commit flag		118q

FIG. 9d SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

Plans Coverage	119	Jurisdiction Id Plan Coverage Start Date	119a
		Plan Coverage Start Date	119b
		I I I I I COVE I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	119c
		Provider Id	119d
		Plan Id	119e
Preferences	120	Customer Id	120a
		Provider Id	120b
		Type Of Service	120c
		Per savings int	120d
		Amt Savings Int	120e
Promotion	121	Promotion Id	121a
		Bundle ID	121b
		Promotion name	121c
		Value ,	121d
		Start Date	121e
		End Date	121f
		Description	121g
Provider	122	Provider Id	122a
		state code	122b
		Provider Name	122c
		Address Line 1	122d
		Address Line 2	122e
		Address Line 3	122f
		City	122g
		Zip	122h
		Parent Provider Id	122i
		Web Site URL	122j
		Telephone	122k
		Referral Code	1221
Rate Schedule		Rate Id	123a
Aggregate	123	1	

FIG. 9e SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

		Aggregate Value	123b
		Aggregate Rate	123c
Rate Schedules 124		Rate ID	124a
		Period Id	
		Level Id	
		Time Schedule Id	
Rates	125	Rate Id	125a
		Effective Start Date	125b
		Effective End Date	125c
		Type Of Service	125d
		Fixed Fee	125e
Rates Repeating	126	Rate Id	126a
		Repeating rate	126b
		Free Units	126c
Sequence gen	127	Sequence Value	127a
	-	Sequence Column	127b
States	128	state code	128a
		Name	128b
Subscriptions	129	Subs Start Date	129a
		Plan Id	129b
		Subs End date	129c
		Term	129d
		Account Number	129e
		Subscription Id	129f
		Provider Id	129g
		Order ID	129h
		Customer Id	129i
Taxes Tariffs	130	Jurisdiction Id	130a
		Tax Tariff Id	130b
Types Of Service	134	Type Of Service	134a

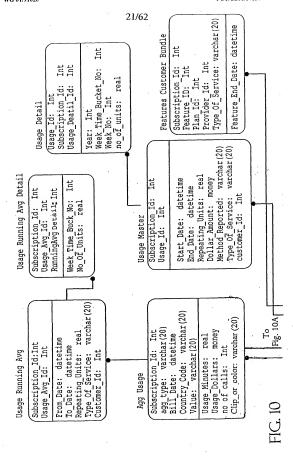
FIG. 9f substitute sheet (Rule 26)

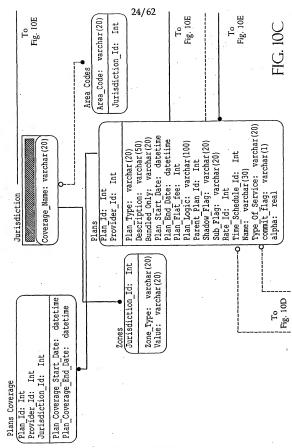
	Description	134b
Types Of Service	Type Of Service	135a
Provider 135	-17	
11011401 100	Provider Id	135b
Usage Detail 136	Year	136b
000,50	Week No	136c
	no of units	136d
	Usage id	136e
	Usage Detail Id	136f
	Subscription Id	136g
Usage Master 137	Dollar Amount	
	Repeating Units	
	Method Reported	
	Method Reported Type Of Service	
	Customer id	
	Subscription Id	
	End Date	
	Usage Id	
	Start_Date	
Usage Running Avg	Repeating Units	
138		
	To_Date	
	Type_Of_Service	
	Customer_Id	
	Subscription_Id	
	From Date	
	Usage_Avg_Id	
Usage_Running	Running Avg Det Id	
Avg Detail 139		
	Week_Time_Buck_No	
	No_Of_Units	
	Usage Avg Id	
	Subscription Id	

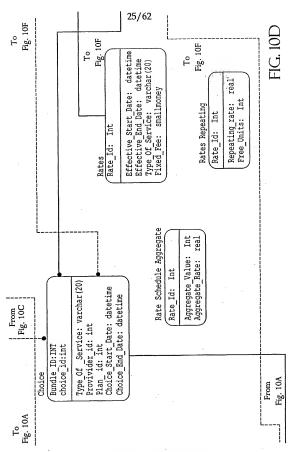
FIG. 9g SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

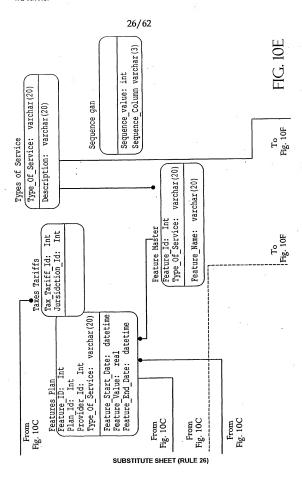
Zip Codes	140	Zip Code	 140a
Zones	141	Zone Type	 141a
		Value	 141b
		Jurisdiction	141c

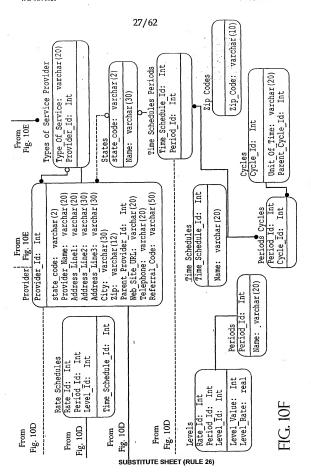
FIG. 9h SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)











PARSER OUTPUT

	TAG NAME	EXPLANATION				
1	MNAME=	Middle Name of customer				
	LNAME=	Last Name of customer				
Ì	FNAME=	First Name of customer				
į	EMAIL=	Email Id of customer				
1	ALTEMAIL=	Alternate Email Id of customer				
	TITLE=	Title of customer (like Ms)				
	SUFFIX=	Suffix (life Jr)				
	ACODE=	Area Code of customer				
	PHONE=	Phone number of customer				
	EXT=	Extension of customer				
		State Code of customer				
	STCODE=	(For e.g. PA for Pennsylvania)				
	ADDR1=	First part of customer's address				
	ADDR2=	Second part of customer's address				
	CITY=	City of customer				
	ZIPCODE=	Zip Code of customer				
		Provider of the plan customer is				
	PROVIDER=	subscribed to .				
	7	Type of Service of the plan				
		Customer is subscribed to.				
		· For Wireless bill, value				
		should be 'WS'				
		· For Long Distance bill,				
		TOS= Value should be 'LD'				
		Name of the plan customer is				
	PLANNAME=	subscribed to .				
	ACCOUNT=	Customer's account number				
	SDATE=	Start Date of the bill				
	EDATE=	End Date of the bill				
	REPUNITS=	Repeating units				
	AMOUNT=	Total bill amount				
	DTLSDT1=	Start date of individual bill detail				
	DTLEDT1=	End date of individual bill detail				
		Number called from individual bill				
	DTLNUM1=	detail				
		State code of number called from				
		Individual bill detail				
		(for e.g. PA for Pennsylvania or NJ				
	DTLSTCD1=	for New Jersey)				
	DTLAMNT1=	Amount of individual bill detail				
						

FIG. 11a

	No. of minutes from individual bill
DTLUNIT1=	detail
	Country code of number called
	from individual bill detail
DTLCCD1=	(For e.g. 91 for India)
	This field specifies whether this call
	is of type Wireless-Roaming. Set to
	'Y' if Wireless-Roaming, else
DTLROAM1=	blank
	This field specifies whether this call
	is of type Wireless-Long Distance.
	Set to 'Y' if Wireless-Long
DTLLD1=	Distance, else blank
	This field specifies whether this call
	is an inbound or outbound Wireless
	call.
DTLINOUT1=	The values should be 'in' or 'out'

FIG. 11b

EXAMPLE OF PARSER OUTPUT

MNAME=|LNAME=SMITH|FNAME=PHILLIP|EMAIL=r@ut.com|ALTMAIL=r@ht.c
om|TITLE=Ms|SUFFIX=I|ACODE=215|PHONE=2155551212|EXT=1234|STCODE=P
A|ADDRI=1 MAIN
STREET|ADDR2=|CITY=Philadelphia|ZIPCODE=19103|PROVIDER=|TOS=LD
|PLANNAME=One Net Savings(sm)|ACCOUNT=Ph32UXXX|SDATE=08/01/1999
00:00:00|EDATE=|REPUNITS=|AMOUNT=\$24.18|DTLSDT1=8/11/1999
21:57:00|DTLEDT1=|DTLNUM1=518 3710707|DTLSTCD1=NY|DTLAMNT1=0.18|DTLUNIT1=2|DTLCCD1=|DTLROAM1=|D
TLLD1=|DTLINOUT1=|DTLSDT2=8/12/199 09:08:00|DTLEDT2=|DTLNUM2=216
2668206|DTLSTCD2=0H|DTLAMNT2=0.45|DTLUNIT2=5|DTLCCD2=|DTLROAM2=|D
TLLD2=|DTLINOUT2=|DTLSDT3=8/12/1999 13:22:00|DTLEDT3=|DTLNUM3=518
3710707|DTLSTCD3=NY|DTLAMNT3=2.07|DTLUNIT3=23|DTLCCD3=|DTLROAM3=|
DTLLD3=|DTLINOUT3=

FIG. 12

31/62 SNAPSHOT OF BILL

Date Aug 11	Time 9:57p	Place Schenctady,	Number 518 371-0707	Rate 24Hr	Min 2	Amount .18
NY Aug 11	9:08a	Cleveland,	216 266-8206	24Hr	5	0.45
OH Aug 12 NY	1:22p	Schenctady,	518 371-0707	24Hr	23	2.07
Aug 12	2:50p	Richmond, VA	804 343-5041	24Hr	8	.72
Aug 12 Aug 12	5:51p 6:03p	Orange, NJ Orange, NJ	973 266-9618 973 266-9618		3 1	.27 .09

PROCESSOR

Date	Time	Bucket number	Units
Aug 11	9:57p	376	2
Aug 11	9:08a	421	5
Aug 12	1:22p	438	8
Aug 12	2:50p	444	8
Aug 12	5:51p	456	3
Aug 12	6:03p	457	1

Output of Cost Calculator:

One Net Savings(sm)
 Fixed Cost: \$0.0

(Current Plan of customer)

Plus Repeating: \$0.0

Period: peak Running Sum Cost = \$12.51

· Period: offpeak Running Sum Cost = \$17.49

Plus Variable: \$30.0

Plan: (InState) OneNet-PA (subplan1)

Fixed Cost: \$0.0

No Variable or Repeating usage for this Type of Service

Plan: (StateToState) OneNet-StateToState (subplan2)

Fixed Cost: \$0.0

Plus Repeating: \$0.0

Period: peak Running Sum Cost = \$2.51 Period: offpeak Running Sum Cost = \$7.49

Plus Variable: \$30.0

FIG. 13a

FIG. 13b

2. .05 Anytime

Fixed Cost: \$8.95 Plus Repeating: \$8.95

Period: One Rate Running Sum Cost = \$9.650001

Plus Variable: \$18.6

Sprint Sense Anytime 1 Fixed Cost: \$0.0

Plus Repeating: \$0.0

Period: One Rate Running Sum Cost = \$19.300001

Plus Variable: \$19.300001

4. Sprint Sense Anytime 2

Fixed Cost: \$4.95 Plus Repeating: \$4.95

Period: One Rate Running Sum Cost = \$19.300001

Plus Variable: \$24.25

Talk.com .05 all the time Fixed Cost: \$5.95

Plus Repeating: \$5.95

Period: One Rate Running Sum Cost = \$9.650001

Plus Variable: \$15.6

Output of Ranker:

The Ranker sorts the plans by the costs calculated. It runs on the above 5 plans and comes up with plans in ascending sorted

order to be

plan 5 (Talk.com .05 all the time)

plan 2 (.05 Anytime)

plan 3 (Sprint Sense Anytime 1)

Overall Output:

Туре	Plan	Current Spend	Plans	Projected Spend	Savings
			Talk.com	\$15	46%
LD	MCI	\$30.0	.05 all the		
l			Time		
			.05 Any	\$18	36%
			Time		
			Sprint	\$19	36%
			Sense		
			Anytime		

customers. E-mail, instant WorldCom long distance

Statement Date 215 555-1212 July 21, 1999 2UXXX MCI WorldCom Account: Telephone: Page 1 of www.mci.com/service Customer Service:

Summary of Charges

Current Charges.....

Get online today for just \$16.95 month! Exclusive offer for MCI

Total added to your American Express Card

PAY CREDIT CARD Payment Due Date.....

availability and offer details. month. Call 1-800-500-1382, or 150 hours of local access each messaging and more! Includes

visit www.mciworld.com for.

PLEASE PAY AMERICAN EXPRESS DIRECTLY. DO NOT send payment to MCI WorldCom.

Please call MCI WorldCom to update any new credit card information.

19107514686

623 *3318*97*36** #BWNBMMR #2U849701UR000000#

service to update your account. Are You MOVING? If so please contact customer

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

19103 PHILADELPHIA, PA PHILLIP SMITH 1 MAIN STREET

MCI WorldCom Account: Telephone:

215-555-1212 ZOXXX

Statement Date July 21, 1999

Page 2 of 5 Customer Service: www.mci.com/service

Written Inquiries: MCI WorldCom, P.O. Box 4600, Iowa City, IA Correspondence and Internet Access

52244-4600

Online Account Manager from MCI WorldCom: www.mci.com/service

your account will be converted to direct remit billing, requiring payment by check. If this and you wish to re-establish the convenience of credit card billing, please call us at 1 800 If the processing of your credit card payment for your MCI WorldCom charges is unsuccessful, 879-4737 to provide your credit card information. Credit Card Payments

hours a day, 7 days a week! - Review your current and prior invoices - Update your personal and account information - See your current services or add new WorldCom (sm) is the easiest, most convenient way to manage your account, 24 products and services - Read our Frequently Asked Questions or send a Your account at your fingertips! Online Account Manager from MCI question via e-mail Check out www.mci.com/service today!

Invoice Continues on Next page

Simply provide your new address and telephone number below and we'll be sure MOVING?

If you currently don't have all of the specific information, please provide the date you plan on moving. your MCI WorldCom account moves with you.

By signing, I authorize MCI WorldCom to transfer my services from my old telephone number to the New Phone Number listed above. I authorize Md WorldCom to provide my residential long distance, and local thin service, if available and to notify my local phone company of my choice for the phone number(s) listed above. I understand that I can only have one. primary carrier for each of these services per telephone number, and my local telephone WorldCom as your carrier at this new number and sign below. As of July 1, 1999, this required Current Phone Number contribution is increasing. contribute to the Federal carriers are required to Universal Service Fund. New Phone Number All telecommunications Move Date: Check here if change of address only and complete information below. MCI WORLDCOM CARD(S) FOR MY NEW NUMBER. company may charge a small fee for this or any other change. July 21, 1999 2 Zip Page 3 of Statement Date \$30.98 \$.98 \$31.96 State Long Distance..... International Long Distance..... 215-555-1212 Customer Service: www.mci.com/service MCI WorldCom Account: 2U8XXX Check here if you want MCI (Required) PLEASE SEND ME Service Summary SIGNATURE Telephone: Address SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

36/62

Taxes and Surcharges						\$6.89 38.85	c	ontrib	ldCom collects its ution to the fund in a
					. (FUSF).	Universal Service Fee This fee, assessed on		
									ate-to-state and
									tional long distance
									will change to 7.2% on
					·	uly 1,	1999.		
		stance	700 0050						
			733-0352:	17L		Daha	w: n	Amoun	ŀ
	Date	Time	Place	Numb		Rate	Min 14	Amoun	it.
		8:05p	Norfolk, VA		491-2220		1	.09	
			Richmond, VA		673-1212		1	.09	•
					974-6329		1	.09	
	Jul 2		Richmond, VA		673-1212		15		See your MCI WorldCom bill
	Jul 2		Norfolk, VA		624-8458		4		online! Online Account
	Jul 3	3:52a	Arlington, VA	103	974-7668	2411	4	. 30	Manager is the best way to
			m	702	022 7200	240-	1	00	manage your MCI WorldCom
	Jul 3		Alexandria, VA				1		account and add new
	Jul 3		Arlington, VA				1		services, 24 hours a day, 7
	Jul 3	4:35a	Arlington, VA	103	214-1000	2411	2		days a week. Go to
	Jul 3	4:50a	Bishoprnch, CA	925	358-7634	2481			www.mci.com/service today!
	Jul 3		Bishoprnch, CA	925	358-7634	24HI	3		www.mci.com/service coday:
	Jul 3		Vienna, VA		620-9368		3	.18	
	Jul 3	10:33a	Alexandria, VA	103	823-1139	ZAHT	-		•
	Jul 3		Fls Church, VA				1	.09	
	Jul 3		Norfolk, VA		624-8458		10 45	.90 4.05	
	Jul 3	11:5/a	Schenctady, NY	218	3/1-0/0/	2481	16	1.44	
	Jul 3		Round Lake, NY	201	595-1386	2405	3	.27	
	Jul 3		Berwyn, MD		595-1386		1	.09	
	Jul 3		Berwyn, MD		836-7802		_	.10	
	Jul 4		Bel Air, MD				1	.09	
	Jul 5		Alexandria, VA		974-0696		2	.18	
	Jul 5		Arlington, VA		974-0696		1	.09	
	Jul 5		Arlington, VA				3	.27	
	Jul 5		Alexandria, VA		741-2150		1	.09	
	Jul 6		Arlington, VA				1	.09	
	Jul 6		Alexandria, VA				1	.09	
	Jul 6		Arlington, VA		974-7563		1	.09	
	Jul 6		Arlington, VA		974-7563		1	.09	
	Jul 6	5:56p	Arlington, VA	103	714-1303	4401	1	.05	

FIG. 14d

Jul 7	9:38a	Berwyn, MD	301	595-8434	24Hr	1	.09
Jul 7	12:28p	Richmond, VA	804	343-5041	24Hr	1	.09
Jul 7	1:31p	Arlington, VA	703	741-2150	24Hr	1	.09
Jul 7	1:33p	Norfolk, VA	757	640-1700	24Hr	1	.09

Invoice Continues on Reverse ...

MCI WorldCom Account: 2U8XXX Statement Date Telephone: 215-555-1212 July 21, 1999

Customer Service: www.mci.com/service Page 4 of 5

Long Distance (continued)

Calls from 215 733-0352: Number Rate Min Amount Date Time Place Jul 7 1:39p Richmond, VA 804 343-5041 24Hr 3 .27 Jul 7 1:45p Berwyn, MD 301 902-8737 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 1:56p Norfolk, VA 757 640-1700 24Hr 12 1.08 Jul 7 2:20p Berwyn, MD 301 595-8434 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 3:37p Arlington, VA 703 741-2150 24Hr 9 .81 Jul 7 3:55p Berwyn, MD 301-595-1322 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 4:25p Arlington, VA 703 974-7668 24Hr 2 .18 Jul 7 4:46p Arlington, VA 703 741-2150 24Hr 1 .09 4:54p Arlington, VA 703 741-2150 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 Jul 7 4:55p Arlington, VA 703 741-2150 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 4:56p Berwyn, MD 301 595-8434 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 5:53p Bishoprnch, CA 925-358-7395 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 6:05p Bishoprnch, CA 925 358-7395 24Hr 1 .09 Jul 7 7:18p Richmond, VA 804 673-1212 24Hr 3 .27 Jul 7 7:22p Richmond, VA 804 673-1212 24Hr 9 .81 Jul 8 8:16a Berwyn, MD 301 595-8434 24Hr 1 09 Jul 8 9:07a Berwyn, MD 301 595-8434 24Hr 1 09

FIG. 14e SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

Jul 8 9:1	4a Berwyn,	MD 301	595-8534	24Hr	3	.27
Total Calls	from 215 73	3-0352				\$17.47
Calls from	703 751-5665	:				100
Date Time	Place				Min	
	39p Phila, P		733-0352	24Hr	5	.45.
Jul 6 8:	66p Phila, P		-733-0352		7	.63
	21p Phila, P		-733-0352		2	.18
Jul 7 6:3	23p Charlots				1	.25
Jul 7 8:3	32p Phila, P		733-0352			1.35
Jul 7 9:	l6p Phila, P		733-0352			.27
Jul 10 1:	40p Phila, P		205-0336		2	.18
Jul 10 2:	06p Richmond		744-3977		1	.10
Jul 10 2:	32p Richmond		744-3977		5	.50
Jul 10 8:	53p Norfolk,	VA 757	624-8458	0fpk	20	2.00
Jul 11 9:	53a Richmond		673-1212		1	.10
Jul 11 10:	16a Schencta		371-0707		1	.05
Jul 11 4:	01p Norfolk,		624-8458		1	.10
Jul 11 4:	02p Richmond		673-1212		11	1.10
Jul 12 7:	55p Clevelar	d, OH 216	707-1898	24Hr	20	1.80
Jul 17 9:	54a Norfolk,	VA 757	624-8458	0fpk	3	.30
Jul 18 4:	10p Fayettev	1, NC 910	223-9474	Scent		2.10
Jul 18 5:	36p Richmond	l, VA 804	673-1212	0fpk	16	1.60
Jul 18 6:	55p Balacynw	yd, PA 610	949-9777	Scent	9	.45
Total Call	s from 703 75	1-5665				\$13.51
Total Long	Distance					\$30.98

Invoice Continues on Next page ...

MCI WorldCom Account: 2U8XXX Statement Date Telephone: 215-555-1212 July 21, 1999

Customer Service: www.mci.com/service Page 5 of 5

Partner airline customers

1-800-569-5905.

\$6.89

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International Long Distance

Calls from 703	751-5665:				
Date Time	Place .	Number	Rate	Min	Amount
Jul 7 6:23p	Germany	4969288387	Ecnmy	1	.98
Total Calls fr	om 703 751-566	5	_		\$.98
Total Internat					\$.98
TOCAL THEOLING	201142 20119				

Taxes and Surcharges

•		may notice a bityne
Federal Excise Tax	\$2.45 \$.37 \$1.07	increase in their surcharges. This is the result of a federally imposed Federal Excise Tax (FET) on airline miles which MCI WorldCom passes to airline partner customers in the form of a minimal surcharge when the miles have been posted to the airline account.
		Questions? Please call

Total Taxes and Surcharges

Key to Rate Codes:

24 Hr = Call Priced at 24-Hour Rate Ofpk = Call priced at Off Peak rate Peak = Call priced at Peak rate Scent = 5 cent Rate Ecnny = Call Priced at Economy Rate

For Your Information ...

ENSURE YOU KEEP YOUR MCI WORLDCOM BENEFITS!
Simply call your local phone company today and request that your local toll and
long distance service not be switched to another company without your verbal or
written authorization.

FIG. 14g

Take a look at any enclosed special value offers just for MCI WorldCom customers.

FIG. 14h

2.0 XML Format of AT&T Wireless bill

<bill name = "ATTWireless">

keyword_format>Account Name Date of Invoice Page</keyword_format>
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<whitespace></whitespace>
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FIG. 15a SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

```
<TEXT MESSAGING></TEXT MESSAGING><whitespace></whitespace>
<dollar value store="voicemail charges"></dollar value>
<CALLER ID></CALLER ID><whitsepace></whitespace>
<dollar value store="caller id charges"></dollar value>
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<group>
             <or>
         <TOTAL MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES>
           </TOTAL MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES><whitespace></whitespace>
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  <qarbaqe></qarbaqe> -
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 <or>
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  <qarbage></qarbage>
 </or>
</group>
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   </row>
   <row>
                             FIG. 15b
```

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```
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   <carriage return></carriage return>
   </row>
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   <numeral
   store="duration"></numeral><whitespace></whitespace>
   <carriage return></carriage return>
   </row>
 </section>
</bill>
```

FIG. 15d

Account Name Date of Invoice APR 22, 2000

1

Account Number

SUMMARY OF MONTHLY CHARGES FOR ACCOUNT 52175965
Previous Balance 190.07
Payments Received Through 4/22/00 190.07CR
Adjustments 9.55CR
Balance Forward 9.55CR
Late Payment Charge .00
Total Balance Forward
9.55CR
Current Monthly Charges

Current Monthly charges are summarized on the following pages, including a subtotal of charges for each telephone number. Billing detail for each telephone number follows this information.

Total Current Monthly Charges DUE UPON RECEIPT
190.13
100.13
180.58
ATST WIRELESS SERVICES APPRECIATES YOUR BUSINESS
P.O. BOX 289, ATTN: CORRESPONDENCE DEPARTMENT, PARAMUS,NJ 07653-0289
Billing Inquiries Call Customer Care 1-800-888-7600
or dial 611 free from your cellular telephone
PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT AMOUNT DUE:
180.58

Acct Name: AT&T WIRELESS SERVICES P.O. BOX 8220 AURORA IL 60572-8220

000000030002500000005217596547560000180580

FIG. 15e

WO 01/91020 PCT/US01/17157

46/62

2.0

--- BT.ANK --

FIG. 15 f SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26

WO 01/91020 PCT/US01/17157

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ACCOUNT NAME

ACCOUNT NUMBER

BILL DATE

3.0

APR 22, 2000

Introducing Online Customer Service

It's easy to get information about your wireless account with our Online Custom

er Service.

Simply go to www.att.com/wireless and select Customer Service. Once you regist $% \left(1\right) =\left(1\right) \left(1\right) \left($

er, you'll

be able to view your account balance or billing history, add or delete features

Figure 15f

FIG. 15g SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

190.13

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credit card payments, and get the latest on calling plans, features, coverage a reas; accessories, and more. It's just another way AT&T Wireless Services is working to simplify your life by simplifying Wireless. PAYMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS DETAIL OF PAYMENTS 190.07CR 4/01/00 PAYMENT TOTAL OF PAYMENTS RECEIVED THROUGH 4/22/00 190.07CR DETAIL OF ADJUSTMENTS 9.55CR NATIONAL ACCOUNT DISCOUNT TOTAL OF ADJUSTMENTS 9.55CR CURRENT MONTHLY CHARGES 35,13 155.86 .29CR FEDERAL TAXES @ 3.000% .57CR @ 6.000% STATE TAXES TOTAL CURRENT MONTHLY CHARGES

FIG. 15h

4.0

--- BLANK ---

ACCOUNT NAM	E ACCOUNT	NUMBER	MOBILE	NUMBER	BILL	DAT	E
5.0					APR	22,	200
3/20/00 T MONTHLY SE 3-WAY CONF CALLER ID VOICEMAIL	VICE CHARGES nrough 4/19/00 - AT&T ADVANTAGE	GING			29.99 1.00 .00		
HOME AIRTIM 3/20/00	Through 4/19/00	- AT&T A Minut			C	harq	je
	DED IN PLAN AIRTIME CHARGES	1	45	.000		.(00
	ISTANCE CHARGES						
AT&T W	Carrier Charge (IRELESS SERVICES LONG DISTANCE CHA					6.1	12 75

FIG. 15 i

6.87 OTHER CHARGES AND CREDITS 6.12CR LOCAL CARRIER CHARGE - NO CHARGE TOTAL OTHER CHARGES AND CREDITS 6.12CR TAXES, SURCHARGES & REGULATORY FEES .95 @ 3.000% FEDERAL TAX 1.94 @ 6.000% STATE TAX .50 UNIVERSAL CONNECTIVITY CHARGE TOTAL TAXES, .SURCHARGES & REGULATORY FEES TOTAL CURRENT MONTHLY CHARGES 35.13

FIG. 15 j

0001 3/20	3:00P	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY					
0002 3/20	3:00P	NACN 732-310-8000	INCOMING				3	
0003 3/20	7:19P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	1	
.060x								
	11:13A	732-445-4568	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊJ	MM	1	1	
.060x								
	11:17A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊĴ	MM	1	1	
.060X		2000 /vv av	DEDMILLANDON	MT	M	1	1	
		S908/NACN				_	2	
			INCOMING			В.		
		732-249-1070				1	1	
	4:31P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	2	
.120x							•	
	10:37A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	2	
.120x								
	7:13P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊĴ	МM	1	1	
.060x		500 040 4050				1	1	
	7:191	732-249-1070	NEMBRONSMY	NJ	MM	1	1	
.060x		720 020 0611	MARIODAMORIA		101	1	1	
	7:191	732-932-9611	NEWBRUNSWK	NU	MM	1	1	
.060x	7 20D	720 445 4560	MUNIDALINGER	M.T	w	1	1	
	7:30P	732-445-4568	NEWBRUNSWK	NU	MM	1	1	
.060x	44 000	620 210 0000	DUDING T DM	N T	101	1	2	
	11:23A	632-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	2	
.120x	11 042	722 445 4560	NEWBRUNSWK	N T	101	1	2	
	11:24A	732-445-4568	NEMBRONSMY	NJ	MM	1	Z	
.120x	10.20D	722 410 0766	NEWBRUNSWK	NI T	ww	2	1	
	10:291	732-418-8766	NEWDVONOMV	MO	riri	4	1	
.060x	10.200	720 210 0000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	2	1	
	10:29P	732-310-8000	DOMETPEN	NU	rill	2	1	
.060x		TT 0	4 3					

FIG. 15 k SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

				-				
0019	3/23	10:30P	732-418-8766	LOCAL		MM	2	1
			732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	2	1
.060x								
		10:45P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	2	1
.060x								
		9:05A	NDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0023		9:39A		PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1	1
:060x								
		5:11P	732-828-3131	LOCAL		MM	1	1
0025				DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	3	1
.060x								
		4:59P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x								
		5:07P	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x								
0028		5:08P	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	2
.120x								
0029		9:30A	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x								
0030	3/29	9:31A	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x								
0031	3/29	9:32A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.0602								
0032	3/29	9:33A	609-520-0404	PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1	3
.1802								
0033	3/29	9:36A	609-520-0404	PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1	1
.0602								
0034	3/29	9:36A	609-520-0404	PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1	3
.1802	١							
0035	3/29	11:00A	609-529-4846	MOBILE		MR	1	1
0036	3/29	.11:01A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MR	1	2
.1202	٠							
0037	3/29	11:06A	S609/NACN	LAWRNCVLLE	NJ			
		11:07A		INCOMING		MR	В	2
			S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ			
0040	3/29	3:42P	NACN	INCOMING		MM	В	1
0041	3/30	4:53P	NACN S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ			
0042	3/30	4:53P	NACN	INCOMING		MM	В	2
			732-310-8000		NJ	MM	2	2
.1202								

FIG. 15 1 SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

0044 3/30 10:53P 732-310-8000 DUNELLEN NJ MM 2 2 .120x 0045 3/31 11:23A 732-445-4568 NEWBRUNSWK NJ MM 1 1 .060x

FIG. 15m

ACCOUNT NAME ACCOUNT NUMBER MOBILE NUMBER BILL DATE

7.0

APR 22, 2000

	DATE		NUMBER CALLED		CALL FROM	CAT	MIN	AIR		LONG
0046		1:05P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	3	2		
	4/01	1:07P	732-310-6382	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	3	1		
.0602	ζ.		732-310-8000				3	1		
.150			215-568-9331			MM	3	1.		
			S908/NACN							
			NACN						-	
.0602	ĸ		732-310-8000			MM	1	1		
0053		2:58P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1		
.0602	X.		732-310-8000			MM	1	1		
0055	4/04	11:33A	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ					
				INCOMING			В	2		
0057	4/04	12:48P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	2		

100						
.120x 0058 4/04	5:41P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM 1	1
.060x	3.111	132 310 0000	Donabajan			_
0059 4/04	5:44P	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM ·1	1
.060x						
0060 4/04	5:45P	732-296-9097	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊJ	MM 1	1
.060x						
0061 4/05	12:54P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM 1	4
.240x						
0062 4/05		S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ		_
0063 4/05	4:32P		INCOMING		MM B	2
0064 4/05	4:56P	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	ŊJ		
0065 4/05	4:57P		INCOMING		MM B	2
0066 4/05	9:48P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM 2	1
.060x						
0067 4/05	9:49P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM 2	1
.060x						_
0068 4/05	9:50P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊĴ	MM 2	1
.060x						
0069 4/06	7:42A	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊĴ	MM 1	2
.120x						
0070 4/06	7:44A	732-445-0781	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊJ	MM 1	1
.060x						
0071 4/06			LOCAL			_
0072 4/06	4:45P	215-568-9331	PHILA	PA	MM 1	2
.300						
0073 4/06	4:48P	732-310-6382	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM 1	1
.060x						
0074 4/06	8:07P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM 1 .	1
.060x						
0075 4/06		FDEPOSIT	LOCAL			
0076 4/06		FDEPOSIT	LOCAL			
0077 4/07	5:13P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊĴ	MM 1	1
.060x						_
0078 4/07			INCOMING		В	1
0079 4/07	5:52P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM 1	1
.060x						
0080 4/07		S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	ŊJ		_
0081 4/07	5:53P	NACN	INCOMING		MM B	2

0082			609-919-9756	PRINCETON	NJ	1	1
0083	4/07	6:14P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL			
0084	4/07	6:15P	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ		
0085	4/07	6:15P	NACN	INCOMING		MM B	7
0086	4/10	10:22A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM .1	1
.0602	<						
0087	4/10	11:00A	732-445-1999	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM 1	2
.1202	<						
8800	4/10	11:02A	732-445-1999	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM 1	1
.0602	K						
0089	4/10	2:30P	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ		
0090	4/10	2:30P	NACN	INCOMING		MM B	1

FIG. 15p

ACCOUNT NAME

ACCOUNT NUMBER

MOBILE NUMBER BILL DATE

8.0

APR 22, 2000

REF DISTA	DATE NCE	TIME	NUMBER	CALLED	CALLS		CALL FROM	CAT	MIN	AIR	LONG
0088	4/10	11:02A	732-445	-1999	NEWBRU	JNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1	
0091	4/10	3:28P	S908/NACI	N	PERTH	AMBOY	NJ				
0092	4/10	3:28P	NACN		INCOM	ING		MM	В	1	
0002	4/10	3.500	732-310.	-8000	DIMELL	.FM	M.T	MM	1	1	

FIG. 159

			58/62				
0094 4/10	7:18P	732-310-8000	MOBILE			1	2
0095 4/11			DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							
0096 4/11	6:45P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x						1.	
0097 4/11	6:46P	609-919-9756	PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							
0098 4/11	6:47P	609-919-9756	PRINCETON	NJ	MM	1 '.	5
.300x			9.0			• ·	
0099 4/11	7:02P	S908/NACN	PERTHAMBOY	NJ			
0100 4/11	7:02P		INCOMING		MM		1
0101 4/13	7:56A	732-445-0781	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							
0102 4/13			LOCAL				
0103 4/13	11:47A	215-568-9331	PHILA	PA	MM	1	1
.150							
0104 4/13			LOCAL				
	12:04P	732-418-8900	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							_
	12:04P	732-249-0011	NEWBRUNSWK	ŊĴ	MM	1	2
.120x							
0107 4/13	12:06P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							
0108 4/13	12:07P	732-310-6382	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM	1	1
.060x							-
0109 4/13	12:48P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	5
.300x			DIDIDI I DII	17 T	101		3
0110 4/14	11:30A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	.MM	1	. 3
.180x	C . 12-	720 210 0000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	1
0111 4/14 .060x	6:43p	732-310-8000	DOMETTER	NO	PIPI	1	1
0112 4/14	6:44P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	2
.120x	0:44P	132-310-6000	DOMETTER	NO	rin	1	2
0113 4/14	6.510	PROPOSTO	LOCAL			,	
0113 4/14			LOCAL				
0114 4/15			LOCAL				
		408-735-9558		CA	MM	1	1
.150	11.13H	400-133-3330	JOINI AUTR	CH	rat	-	_
	11.212	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	ŊJ	MM	1	2
.120x	11.21H	132-310-0000	Мацииос	110	rari	-	-
. 1707							

FIG. 15 r SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

0118 4/18 11:15A 732 .060x	2-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	MM 1	1	
0119 4/18 12:17P S908 0120 4/18 12:17P NAG	8/NACN	PERTHAMBOY INCOMING	NJ·	MM B	* 1	
0121 4/18 12:41P 733	2-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ.	MM I	1	
TOTAL HOME AIRTIME AL	ND LONG DIST				145	.00
CALL CHARACTERISTIC	CS:					
S = Long Distance	Service Bil					
x = Local Carrier				cails	1	
N = No Answer Trans	sfer, $F = Ca$	11 Forwardı	ng			
"CALLS FROM" KEY: MM = Monmouth/Midd	locov NT	MD - Morcer	CO 1	J.T		
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUES					SERVICE.	
PLEASE CALL OUR CUST						
ACCOUNT NAME ACCOUNT						
9.0						
	APR 22, 20	00				
SUMMARY OF CHARGES	CEC					
MONTHLY SERVICE CHAR 3/22/00 Through						
MONTHLY SE - AT&T D		ΔTE \$14		149.	99	
CALLER ID	TOTING ONE IN	1110 411		115.	.00	

FIG. 15 s

VOICEMAIL PLUS & TEXT MESSAGING TOTAL MONTHLY SERVICE CHARGES 149.99 HOME AIRTIME CHARGES 3/20/00 - Through 3/30/00 - AT&T DIGITAL Category Minutes	.00 ONE RATE Rate	\$149.99 Charge
3/31/00 Through 4/19/00 - AT&T D	.000 DIGITAL ONE Rate	RATE \$149.99
Category Minutes	rate	
INCLUDED IN PLAN 931 TOTAL HOME AIRTIME CHARGES .00 OTHER CHARGES AND CREDITS	.000	.00
7.5% CORPORATE DISCOUNT TOTAL OTHER CHARGES AND CREDITS 7.50CR TAXES, SURCHARGES & REGULATORY FEES		7.50CR
I DDDIALD IIII	3.000% 5.000%	4.29 8.58 .50

FIG. 15 t

ACCOUNT NAME

61/62 ACCOUNT NUMBER

MOBILE NUMBER BILL DATE

10.0							٠,-	3 DD 00	0000
			LONG DIGMANCE C	INDODO				APR 22,	2000
HOME	AIRTI	ME AND	LONG DISTANCE CH	IARGES	CALI				LONG
REF	DATE	TIME	NUMBER CALLED	CALLS TO	FROM	1 CA	T MIN	AIR	
DISTA									
				DIMINA A DIV		V T	MM 1	2	
0112	4/14	6:44P	732-310-8000	DONEPTEN		NJ	MM I	. 2	
	3/20	8.463	267-251-6999	MORTLE		PΆ	1	2	
0001	3/20	7.03p	215-568-9334	PHTLA	PΑ	PA	1	8	
0002	3/20	7.11P	215-568-9334 215-568-9334 WNACN	PHTLA	PA	PA	1	14	
0003	3/20	7:19P	WNACN	INCOMING		PA	В		
0005	3/21	9:15A	NACN	INCOMING		PA	В	1	
0007	3/21	11:07A	NDEPOSIT	LOCAL					
0008	3/21	11:18A	NACN NDEPOSIT NDEPOSIT 732-310-8000 732-310-6382 NACN 800-454-9272 WNACN NACN 732-418-8766 215-417-8068	LOCAL					
0009	3/21	11:40A	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	PA	1	1	
0010	3/21	11:41A	732-310-6382	DUNELLEN	NJ	PA	1	2	
0011	3/21	3:22P	NACN	INCOMING		PA	В	1	
0012	3/21	3:27P	800-454-9272	800 SERV.		PA	1	7	
0013	3/21	3:30P	WNACN	INCOMING .		PA	В	1	
0014	3/21	5:31P	NACN .	INCOMING		PA	В	2	
0015	3/21	7:01P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	PA	1	5	
0016	3/21	7:06P	215-417-8068	PHILA	PA	PA	1	4	
0017	3/21	7:10P	215-417-8068 215-568-9334 609-865-2285	PHILA	PA	PA	1	1	
0018	3/21	7:11P	215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	PA	1	- 8	
0019	3/21	7:19P	609-865-2285	MOBILE		PA	1	1	
0020	3/21	7:21P	800-862-4569 732-418-8766	800 SERV.		PA	1	2	
0021	3/21	7:52P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	ŅJ	1	1	
0022	3/21	9:16P	215-563-9070	PHILA	PA	NJ	2	1	
0023	3/21	9:17P	215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	NJ	2	9	
0024	3/22	10:38A	215-568-9334 NACN 610-650-8100 NACN	INCOMING		PA	В	1	
0025	3/22	2:00P	610-650-8100	TKOOPER	PA	PA	1	2	
0026	3/22	4:04P	NACN	INCOMING		PA	В	1	

FIG. 15 u SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

0027	3/22	7:08P	NACN	INCOMING		PA	. В	4
	3/22		215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	PA	1	14
0029			WNACN	INCOMING		PA	В	1
	3/22		215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	PA	1	8
	3/22		203-223-6358	STAMFORD	CT	NJ	1	2
		7:39P	732-418-8766	NEWBRUNSWK	NJ	NJ	1	3
		7:55P		PRINCETON	NJ	NJ	1	1
		7:55P		PRINCETON	NJ	ŊJ	1	6
		11:23A		INCOMING		PA	В	1
			215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	PA	1	12
0037	3/23	7:16P	215-568-9334	PHILA	PA	PA	1	8
			215-417-8068	PHILA	PA	PA	1	2
0039	3/23	8:02P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0040	3/23	8:21P	732-310-8000	DUNELLEN	NJ	NJ	1	1
0041	3/23	·10:14P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0042	3/23	10:30P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0043	3/23	10:45P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0044	3/23	10:46P	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				
0045	3/24	8:07A	FDEPOSIT	LOCAL				

FIG. 15 v

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US01/17157

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER							
IPC(T) :G 06F 17/60 US CL : 705/40 US CL : 705/40 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC							
	DS SEARCHED	adolia classification and if C					
	ocumentation searched (classification system followed	by classification symbols)					
U.S. :	705/40						
	ion searched other than minimum documentation to the	extent that each documents are included in	the fields searched				
NONE	ton scarcing other distributional documentation to the						
Electronic d EAST	lata base consulted during the international search (name	ne of data base and, where practicable,	search terms used)				
C. DOC	UMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT						
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where ap	propriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.				
Y,P Y	Y,P US 6,128,603 A (DENT et. al) 03 OCTOBER 2000, Abstract; Fig 1/2/3; col 2 line 65-col 3 line 48; col 4 line 40-col 5 line 12; col 5 line 18-col 6 line 12; col 6 line 30-col 6 line 56; Fig 4/70/38/72/74; col 7 lines 3-55; Fig 5/80/54/38; col 7 line 55-col 8 line 7; Fig 6/70/54; col 8 lines 17-45; col 8 lines 60-67; Fig 7/80/90/94/92; col 9 lines 21-67; col 10 lines 1-52; col 11 lines 4- 32; Fig 9/110/116/118						
X Purt	her documents are listed in the continuation of Box C	. See patent family annex.					
	pocial estagories of cited documents: ocument defining the general state of the art which is not considered	*T* later document published after the ind date and not in conflict with the app the principle or theory underlying th	dication but sited to understand				
	o be of particular relarance artior document published on or after the international filing date	"X" document of particular relevance; if considered povel or cannot be consid	ne claimed invention cannot be ered to involve an inventive step				
document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to enablish the publication date of enother existing or other countries or							
special reason (as specified) 'Y' document of principal reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an oral disciorurs, use, exhibition or other ments 'O' document referring to an inventive stop when a character consideration to consoler and the other and the							
"P" document published prior to the international filing does but later than "&" document member of the same patent family the priority date claimed							
	e actual completion of the international search	Date of mailing of the international so	earch report				
06 AUG	06 AUGUST 2001 05 SEP 2001						
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Peterls and Tradenacks to Peterls and Tradenacks Soc PCT Washington, Dc. 20231							
Facsimile		Telephone No. (703) 308-1065					

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US01/17157

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C (Continuat	(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT					
Category*	Category* Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages					
Y	US 5,956,700 A (LANDRY et al) 21 SEPTEMBER 1999, Abstract; Figs 1-25B; col 6 line 36-col 8 line 5; col 9 line 1-col 11 line 47; col 11 line 64-col 12 line 65; col 13 lines 11-34; col 13 line 61-col 14 line 64; col 15 line 16-col 17 line 55; col 19 line 25-col 20 line 17					